FROM: JERRY & PHYLLIS [redacted] - We received this letter on Tuesday November 29, 2005

Dear Santa,

We are from Waveland and our home was at: ① MR. MRS. JERRY [redacted] PINEY RIDGE ROAD - WAVE. ② DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW - MR. MRS. CHARLES [redacted] & SON "WESTON" 1 MONTH OLD [redacted] McLAURIN

We are now living at: WAVE. ③ Philip [redacted] - OUR SON - THE WAVERLY APARTMENTS WAVELAND

Address: ANY FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE Should be sent

City to MY HUSBAND'S OFFICE ADDRESS - WE MAY be State Zipcode

Phone No. LEAVING OUR CURRENT VICKSBURG, MS ADDRESS SOON.

Our family consists of: JERRY [redacted] 22ND AVENUE [redacted] GULFPORT, MS 39501

PHYLLIS MOM & JERRY DAD - AND AS ABOVE

→ SISTER • LISA [redacted] / Niece • AIYSSA [redacted]

ALSO I HAVE A SISTER & AN 11 YEAR OLD NIECE they LIVED IN DIAMONDHEAD, MS At. NOMA PLACE 9 Feet OF WATER IN home

Our Katrina experience was:

SEE BACK OF This PAGE PLEASE

Write something special that you would like Santa to bring you or your family:

~~[redacted]~~ Four adult households have been destroyed! None of us has any space for household items. Grocery gift certificates or a monetary donation would be great. For our niece & grandson -- How about U.S. Savings ~~Bonds~~?

Please use back or another sheet of paper, if you want to write more. We want to hear your story.

Return by November 30th to:

Mayor's Office, City of Waveland, P. O. Box 539, Waveland, MS 39576

"My Family And Hurricane Katrina" 12/1/2005

The title of my family's story will forevermore ***be*** as entitled. That is the hard part. Our lives will perpetually be linked to the trauma of that day. Never think for a moment that we do not have the right to be as traumatized as deeply as we are. It was a death that put us all in mourning as surely as the death of my beloved father shook me to my soul when he died in 1977 at the young age of 51. I know that after all of these years of pain that I have felt missing my "Daddy", I and my family will always feel the pain of our lost communities and our very way of life. But I won't begin the telling of our story and what the date of Monday, August 29, 2005 was like for us. Instead, I would like to start by letting everyone know that as time has passed (three months have gone by now) it has gotten harder, not easier. Time heals, and I know that, but lots of time will have to pass before the healing begins here.

With the change of seasons and the holiday's upon us, we realize that this hurricane evacuation is unique. Over and over again we have evacuated because of "the storms"over the years, and always returned to our home, of 22 years, just having to clean up a big mess from our beautiful tree filled neighborhood. I always loved when the winds blew hard as March and April were upon us. Ask my husband Jerry....."my trees were singing"...That is how I described the beautiful sound of the pine needles brushing against each other, or the leaves on the oaks fluttering. GONE! There aren't enough left now for any "singing" to be heard. Maybe this is the best way to help others understand the enormous loss we feel. It's not just the homes and the material things we lost. It's also the sounds, smells, and emotions that our magnificent coast stirred within us. Of course the people, our neighbors, friends, family or just familiar faces we saw in our little area while shopping. have also come to mean more to us than we ever realized. We have been scattered across t he country far and wide. We miss each other!

My family is separated at this time. My 7 months pregnant daughter had to quickly relocate 4 hours north of the Mississippi coast where she could be safe in case of her special needs. We needed such *ridiculous* things such as *electricity* and a fully functional *hospital.* So, she and I, and now our grandson, live in an apartment in Vicksburg, Mississippi while our wonderful husbands are working down on the coast. Thank Jesus they have jobs, and thank Jesus for the good people of Vicksburg. Earthly angles are everywhere around us.

BLESSINGS? We have many, many, many.....Our entire family is homeless yes, but we are all alive and safe.....None of us are living in a tent ...my sister and niece are in a tiny little FEMA camper, my husband in a hotel room, and my son-in-law with his sister, my son where ever he can. He's an on time God..He may not come when you want Him but He'll be there right on time. Yes indeed! Our beautiful grandson came just at the right time for us to have hope and see a new beginning..

To tell you the story of how my home and neighborhood looked 24 hours after the "storm" would read like a book. I'm sure that you have heard many horror stories. I felt that at this time it would be best to let you know that mentally we are all very delicate little flowers, ready to wilt at any moment. Pray for us please and pray that for those of us older folks, there will come a time again on our beautiful coast, that we will hear our "trees singing"....God Bless You...Sincerely, Phyllis [redacted] and Family of Waveland, Mississippi

Phyllis [redacted]

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year